



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



226462

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF
C-14J

July 18, 2001

J.T. Smith II, Esq.
Covington & Burling
1201 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20004-2401

Re: Du Sable Park

Dear Mr. Smith:

In response to your July 11, 2001 letter and our telephone conversation of July 17, 2001, I write to express U.S. EPA's concern over communication between U.S. EPA and Kerr-McGee. Your letter states that, "With the knowledge of Fred Micke, Kerr-McGee has conducted certain work at DuSable Park. . ." While Fred Micke was aware that Kerr-McGee desired to do some work at DuSable Park, Mr. Micke was not aware when Kerr-McGee would conduct this work nor what type of work Kerr-McGee planned to conduct. Furthermore, Kerr-McGee did not later notify Mr. Micke when they conducted this work to provide him with an opportunity to observe the work as it was conducted. This is unfortunate because such a missed opportunity may leave unanswered questions with respect to the results that Kerr-McGee presents on DuSable Park. This situation easily could have been avoided by Kerr-McGee providing Mr. Micke the details of the work that they planned for the area.

In our telephone conversation, you suggested that Mr. Micke should have clarified, at the time he spoke to Kerr-McGee, that he wanted to know when and where the work was to be conducted. Over the years Kerr-McGee and U.S. EPA have worked together without such communication problems. However, to clarify, I suggest that Kerr-McGee assume that U.S. EPA is always interested in being informed about the specifics when it comes to surveying and sampling for thorium in the Streeterville area.

If you have any questions please contact me at (312) 886-7166.

Sincerely,

Cathleen R. Martwick
Associate Regional Counsel

Enclosures

cc: Mary Fulghum
Verneta Simon
Fred Micke
Larry Jensen

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July 11, 2001

Kathleen Martwick
Associate Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re: DuSable Park Site Characterization

Dear Kathy:

This letter responds to your telephone inquiry of a couple of weeks ago about Kerr-McGee's willingness to undertake site characterization in DuSable Park. After review of the results of EPA's "walkover" survey and the conduct of its own testing, Kerr-McGee is unpersuaded that further, site-wide characterization is warranted.

With the knowledge of Fred Micke, Kerr-McGee has conducted certain work at DuSable Park in order to reach a better informed judgment about the need for systematic, site-wide characterization. It examined three areas where Larry Jensen's walkover gamma survey indicated the possibility of elevated levels of radionuclides. The first (Area A) was in the north central portion of the park. The second (Area B) was at the east end of Water Street, and the third (Area C) was on the south side of the park. In none of these three areas was surface gamma radiation encountered above standards. Of soil samples taken in each of these three areas, two appeared to have no radionuclides above background. In Area B, a soil sample showed 6.5 pCi/g. This sample, taken from the "hottest area" suggested by Larry Jensen's work, is below the 7.1 pCi/g action criteria for the Streeterville area.

On the basis of this testing, Kerr-McGee has tentatively concluded that systematic, site-wide characterization is not warranted. Instead, Kerr-McGee suggests that the Park District or its contractors, conduct monitoring during any excavation or earth moving that may be necessary to improve the site for purposes of use as a park. Such monitoring

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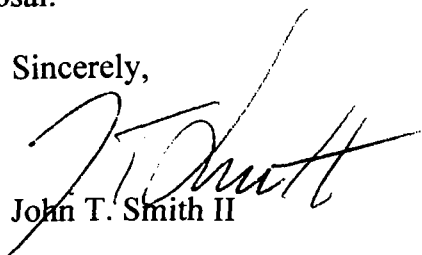
Kathleen Martwick

July 11, 2001

Page 2

could help insure that levels of radionuclides above EPA action levels are not "turned up" or removed from the site for offsite disposal.

Sincerely,



John T. Smith II